

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 MC-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 055790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE
NIKE-HERCULES AS AN SSM

1. MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED US FEBRUARY 27 THEY HAD COMPLETED THE FEASIBILITY PHASE OF THE ROK-INITIATED PLAN TO UPGRADE THE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE CAPABILITIES OF THE NIKE-HERCULES SYSTEM, AND WERE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE DESIGN PHASE FOR OUR APPROVAL. NEXT THREE PHASES OF THE PROJECT WOULD EXTEND OVER FOUR YEARS, ACCORDING TO MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS. THE ROK WOULD PLAN TO PURCHASE 600 NIKE-HERCULES AIRFRAMES FROM US ARMY STOCKS AND MODIFY THEM FOR THE SSM MISSION. THE TOTAL COST WOULD BE \$100-120 MILLION.

2. AS WE DID NOT HAVE A FIRM PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER, WE DID NOT EXPRESS TO COMPANY REPS OUR DETAILED OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROJECT. WE DID INDICATE IT WOULD BE EXAMINED ESPECIALLY CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS SUCH A PROJECT WOULD ENTAIL. DOD TOOK A SIMILAR APPROACH WITH COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES.

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3. WE NOW LEARN THAT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS HAS DECIDED NOT

TO PROCEED WITH THE PROGRAM. DATA AND ANALYSIS COMPILED
SO FAR WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ROK AGENCY FOR DEFENSE

DEVELOPMENT, AS IT HAS ALREADY PAID \$75,000 FOR THE
FEASIBILITY PHASE OF THE PROJECT. WE UNDERSTAND A
MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT SEOUL
NEXT WEEK TO CONVEY THIS DECISION TO THE ROK.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS IS DESIGNING A
PROPOSAL FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE MOST OBSOLETE NIKE-
HERCULES ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, TO EASE MAINTENANCE
PROBLEMS, WITHOUT MEETING THE ROK REQUEST FOR IMPROVED
SSM PERFORMANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THE COMPANY WILL BRIEF US
ON THAT PROPOSAL LATER THIS MONTH. INGERSOLL

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